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Please amend the following claims. A marked-up version of the changes made may be found in the section following this amendment entitled "Version Showing Claim Changes Made."

Claim ~~31~~¹ (Amended). A method of cooling a person by evaporation, comprising:

providing a multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material comprising a fiberfill batting material, and hydrophilic polymeric fibers that absorb at least about 2.5 times the fiber's weight in water;

soaking said multi-layered composite in a liquid;

employing said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material as a garment or a flat sheet and evaporatively cooling said person.

Claim ~~43~~² (Amended). A method of cooling a person by evaporation, comprising:

providing a multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material comprising:

a filler layer comprising:

a fiberfill batting material and

hydrophilic polymeric particles;

soaking said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite in a liquid; and

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C2 employing said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite as a garment or a flat sheet and evaporatively cooling said person.

Please add the following claims:

Claim 66. ¹²⁴ A method of cooling a mammal by evaporation, comprising:

providing a multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material comprising a fiberfill batting material, and hydrophilic polymeric fibers that absorb at least about 2.5 times the fiber's weight in water;

soaking said multi-layered composite in a liquid;

C3 employing said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material as a garment or a flat sheet and evaporatively cooling said mammal.

Claim 67. ²⁶ The method of claim ²⁴ 66, wherein said garment is a shirt, vest, pant, or jacket.

Claim 68. ²⁴ The method of claim ²⁴ 66, wherein said soaking occurs for a period of 2 to 5 minutes.

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Claim ²⁷69. The method of claim ²⁶68, wherein said fibers are composed of not less than 90 weight percent of acrylonitrile and less than ten weight percent of a water-absorbing resin containing carboxyl groups; and have a degree of swellability of 10-300 cc/g.

Claim ²⁸70. The method of claim ²⁷69, wherein said water-absorbing resin has a particle diameter of not larger than 0.5 microns at absolute dryness and is insoluble in water.

C3 Claim ²⁹71. The method of claim ²⁸70, wherein said hydrophilic polymeric fibers have an inner layer and an outer layer and said hydrophilic polymeric fibers are composed of not less than 90 weight percent of an acrylonitrile polymer and having disbursed therein less than ten weight percent of water-absorbing resin particles containing at least one carboxyl group represented by - COOX, wherein X is H, NH₄ or an alkali metal.

Claim ³⁰72. The method of claim ²⁹71, wherein said hydrophilic polymeric fibers are blended with said fiberfill in a range of from about 15 percent to 75 percent with the fiberfill.

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Claim ~~73~~³¹ A method of cooling a mammal by evaporation, comprising:
providing a multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite material comprising:
a filler layer comprising:

a fiberfill batting material and

hydrophilic polymeric particles;

soaking said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite in a liquid; and

employing said multi-layered, liquid-retaining composite as a garment or a flat sheet and evaporatively cooling said mammal.

(3) Claim ~~74~~³² The method of claim ~~73~~³¹, wherein said hydrophilic particles are capable of expanding 100 to 300 times from their original dry size to a wet size responsive to being soaked in liquid.

Claim ~~75~~³³ The method of claim ~~73~~³¹, wherein said hydrophilic particles have a volume when dry of between 0.1 to 2 cubic millimeters.

Claim ~~76~~³⁴ The method of claim ~~73~~³¹, wherein the fiberfill batting material comprises at least one of a woven aramid fiber or a polybenzamidazole fiber.

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Claim ~~77~~⁸ The method of claim ~~31~~¹, wherein the multi-layered liquid-retaining composite further comprises a conductive layer and a retainer layer, both of which communicate with the fiberfill batting material.

Claim ~~78~~³⁵ The method of claim ~~77~~⁸, wherein the conductive layer is provided with a coating that is impervious to liquids, while allowing free passage of gases therethrough.

C³ Claim ~~79~~¹⁴ The method of claim ~~43~~⁹, wherein the multi-layered liquid-retaining composite further comprises a conductive layer and a retainer layer, both of which communicate with the fiberfill batting material.

Claim ~~80~~¹³ The method of claim ~~46~~¹², wherein the multi-layered liquid-retaining composite further comprises a conductive layer and a retainer layer, both of which communicate with the fiberfill batting material.

Claim ~~81~~²³ The method of claim ~~47~~⁵, wherein the multi-layered liquid-retaining composite further comprises a conductive layer and a retainer layer, both of which communicate with the fiberfill batting material.